



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Contact:

Brandi Becker
951-826-2306
bbecker@riversideca.gov

City of Riverside Wins Bronze for Bicycling Friendly Plan

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The City of Riverside is one of the prestigious *bronze* level Bicycle Friendly Communities (BFC), according to the League of American Bicyclists. Riverside is being recognized for its commitment to improving conditions for bicycling and its practice of making focused investment in bicycling programs and facilities.

“The League congratulates Riverside and all of our BFC winners for implementing successful, long-term bicycle plans that provide quality of life improvements for their citizens,” said League President Andy Clarke. The League is recognizing 15 new Bicycle Friendly Communities and three BFC renewals in its fall 2009 award cycle.

“This recognition shines a light on the many recent, and coming, improvements that are making Riverside a bicycle friendly community,” said City of Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge. “The Bicycle Advisory Committee which we formed in September will prioritize the programs and projects described in Riverside’s Bicycle Master Plan – with an emphasis on implementation.”

The BFC judges were particularly impressed with Riverside’s commitment to maintaining and connecting the City’s existing bicycle infrastructure. Riverside has added over 22.65 miles of class II bicycle lanes since the adoption of their Bicycle Master Plan in May of 2007 and has completed a ½ mile section of the Santa Ana River Trail between Van Buren Boulevard and Bradford Street creating a continuous trail through the City. Riverside has increased the City’s standard on-street bike lane to a minimum width of six feet. The City has allocated one employee to the Santa Ana River Trail to sweep the trail twice per week and address other bicycle facility maintenance issues immediately. To encourage and educate the community about bicycling opportunities in Riverside, the City has added a bicycle page to the Public Works Department website (<http://www.riversideca.gov/traffic/bike.asp>). The webpage contains an interactive bicycle map, the Bicycle Master Plan, bicycle safety tips, and links to different bicycle websites.

The application process to become a BFC is rigorous. The renewal process and four levels of the award – platinum, gold, silver and bronze – provide a clear incentive for communities to continuously improve. Applicants complete a detailed on-line form with numerous questions in five key areas: engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation/planning. To learn more about the League’s Bicycle Friendly Community program, visit <http://www.bicyclefriendlyamerica.org>.

###

City of Riverside, California
www.riversideca.gov

